

# Executive Summary

*"I was pleased to see the incredible care that goes into protecting the salmon that journey up the river. It's an important message to send to people, it seems like to me, that a flourishing salmon population is a vital part of the vibrancy of this incredibly beautiful part of our country. And I appreciate the commitment that we are making as a country, and that you're making as a community, for salmon restoration. What I saw was, and what you know, firsthand, is that we can have good, clean hydroelectric power and salmon restoration going on at the same time."*  
— George W. Bush, August 22, 2003

Over five years, including FY2006, President Bush requested \$470 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to support local, state, and tribal salmon habitat restoration projects in Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Idaho. In the last four years, through FY 2005, Congress has appropriated \$376.65 million.

This annual report to Congress on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) provides information on PCSRF accomplishments through December 2004, recent performance measures for the PCSRF and progress to date on those measures, and an identification and assessment of recovery needs for salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as requested in the Conference Report accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H Rept 108-792).

The PCSRF was established by Congress in fiscal year (FY) 2000 to contribute to the conservation, restoration, and sustainability of Pacific salmon populations and their habitats. Congressional appropriations for PCSRF have been made for the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Alaska and to Pacific Coast and Columbia River tribes. After receiving PCSRF funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the states and tribal commissions use separate, competitive processes for distributing their funds in accordance with memoranda of understanding with NMFS for salmon recovery and conservation projects to local governments, individual tribes, public partner-

ships, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other organizations and entities. PCSRF has also played an important role in leveraging additional funding and volunteer participation in salmon recovery from local and private sources.

The states and tribes have used PCSRF to protect and restore salmon habitat, conduct watershed assessments to determine factors limiting salmon productivity, develop plans to address limiting factors, develop resource management plans, conduct salmon enhancement and supplementation activities, monitor and evaluate recovery actions and outcomes, and conduct research and monitoring on salmon populations. Over 4,000 PCSRF projects have been funded to date, including over 1,800 habitat restoration projects and over 1,100 planning and assessment projects.

Performance goals and measures for PCSRF were recently developed. PCSRF activities support three performance goals: (1) increase naturally spawning Pacific salmon populations to levels that are sustainable and allow for annual harvests; (2) enhance the availability of habitat to support sustainable Pacific salmon populations; and (3) improve knowledge and management

practices and the local capacity to implement management practices to sustain salmon populations. For each performance goal, the PCSRF program has set performance measures and indicators for tracking and reporting on progress. This report provides an accounting of progress on these performance measures through 2004. For example, PCSRF project data show that over 3,000 miles of stream habitat have been restored and over 3,500 fish passage blockages removed to enhance the availability of habitat necessary to support sustainable salmon populations. Also, increases in population numbers over the past 5 years have been shown in 16 of the Pacific salmon and steelhead evolutionarily significant units (ESUs).

Pacific salmon and steelhead ESUs on the west coast have been grouped into geographic recovery domains, which allows for an ecosystem approach to identifying

the recovery needs and actions necessary for multiple ESUs in an area. Draft recovery plans are expected in 2005 for several recovery domains. Major factors limiting recovery for each ESU and activities underway to address recovery needs in the domains are described in this report.

PCSRF is making important contributions to systematic and cumulative efforts to improve the quality of salmon habitat, increase knowledge about salmon and steelhead life cycles and requirements, and prioritize conservation and recovery actions. There are signs of increased salmon abundance in some areas and PCSRF projects are improving the quality of salmon habitat in streams and watersheds across the region.

